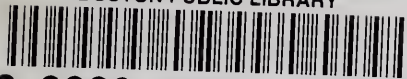


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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION  
AND AMERICANIZATION

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1924

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION.

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PAYSON SMITH, *Commissioner of Education.*

PAULINE R. THAYER, *Director, Division of Immigration and Americanization.*

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On November 30, 1924, the Division of Immigration and Americanization completed its fifth year as successor to the Massachusetts Bureau of Immigration. The duties of the Division are those imposed upon it by the original act, namely,

It shall be the duty of the Bureau to employ such methods, subject to existing laws, as in its judgment, will tend to bring into sympathetic relations the Commonwealth and its residents of foreign origin, to protect immigrants from exploitation or abuse, to stimulate their acquisition and mastery of the English language, to develop their understanding of American government, institutions and ideals, and generally to promote their assimilation and naturalization.

The past year has been one of growth for the entire Division. All but one of the branch offices show a normal increase in applications for service. Noticeable gains in numbers served are apparent in the Fall River and Boston offices, there being an increase of 1,473 and 625 applications in these two offices over the number shown in the previous year.

Two of the branch offices, Springfield and Lawrence have extended their territory by holding regular office hours in different cities in their district. The Lawrence office maintains regular office hours in Lowell and Haverhill. The Springfield office has held a regular service at Holyoke and Worcester. All the offices served the foreign born residents in a district much wider than the city where their office is located. Detail of the different offices is given later in the report.

Because of changes in the Federal Immigration Law there has been a slight decrease in the number of boats from Europe bringing newcomers to Boston. As in former years, we have secured lists from manifests at the East Boston Immigration Station of all aliens destined to Massachusetts who landed at Boston, Providence, or New Bedford. Such aliens are circularized by us. Their names are also sent to the local school superintendents. Names of those going into the districts where we have branch secretaries are sent to them. The follow-up work with the new arrivals who settle in or about Boston has been done as usual by the Field Secretary. A description of her work follows the report of the Boston office.

### BOSTON OFFICE.

The Boston office has had a total of 9,744 applications for service during the past year, a gain of 625 on the previous year. It is significant to note that over ninety per cent (91.66%) of the applications for service came under the classifications of Immigration, Emigration, Citizenship, Interpretation and Translation. In short our function is largely to give expert advice on problems dealing with citizenship, and governmental regulations of entrance into the country or departure therefrom. We are meeting a specific and distinct need for a specialized service not rendered by any other organization. Other problems besides these major ones are brought to us by our foreign born clients and we assist them in their solution but mainly by reference to such agencies, governmental or private, as are particularly equipped for such service. Such requests for help are listed in the annual statistics at the close of the report and



cover problems concerning banks, compensation for injuries, legal matters, employment, financial aid, and miscellaneous complaints and requests for information too varied to catalogue.

As in the past we have referred requests for financial aid to the City and State authorities, applicants for employment to the State Free Employment Office, wage claims to the State Department of Labor and Industries, and industrial accident claims to the Industrial Accident Board. We find many of our clients ignorant of the existence of these offices. We have had cordial co-operation from these departments.

During the past year we have referred to the Attorney General a specific complaint of fraud practiced upon immigrants. Restitution was secured. Other cases, indicating similar frauds have been referred to the District Attorney of Suffolk County. Prosecution is under way in that office. A violation of the labor law relative to the taking of gratuities for employment has been referred to the District Attorney in whose district it occurred and is being investigated with a view to prosecution by that office. Several complaints have been referred to the Legal Aid Society as has been our custom in previous years.

### *Immigration.*

The past year has witnessed a great change in the character of the Federal Immigration Laws. The present law which went into effect July 1, 1924, is highly restrictive in character, reducing immigration to a quota based on 2% of the census of 1890. Prior to the passage of the law there was keen public interest in the question, and, as is the case in all controversial matters, much intensity of feeling between opponents and proponents. The Division took no stand, but kept on hand for the public correct information as to the progress of the legislation in Congress, the arguments for and against it, etc. The Director conferred in Washington with the Secretary of Labor, the Commissioner of Immigration and various members of the House and Senate Immigration Committees. The office kept in constant touch with the reports of the Congressional Committees. The Director spoke to various groups of women during the progress of the legislation, taking no sides in the controversy, but finding it worth while to present the problem stripped of its controversial aspects before interested groups who were often misinformed of the real situation. The Director also held conferences with several racial groups in regard to this matter. During the year there has been an increasing number of requests for information from Americans. The office endeavors to keep an up-to-date current information service on this point.

Prior to July 1, 1924, we assisted many applicants, both citizen and alien, in the making out of the affidavits of support which must be presented by relatives overseas to secure consular visa. Many of these affidavits had to be submitted to the various foreign consulates in the United States for a visa before being sent across. The Italian consulate required a special form of affidavit, written in Italian, and attested by two Italian citizens. All affidavits had to bear upon them the seal of the State of Massachusetts attesting to the authenticity of the notary's signature. A conservative estimate indicates that applicants who filled out affidavits in our office paid into the office of the Secretary of State at least \$1,000 in fees,—the fee being twenty-five cents per document.

Since July 1, 1924, operating under the new law, we have assisted citizens to fill out the form of petition, known as form 633, which the United States Bureau of Immigration issues. This form can only be used for *citizen* residents, and for relatives who are either parents, wives, husbands, or children under 21, of the petitioners. Such relatives of citizens are the only ones, under the new law, entitled to a non-quota or quota preference status. There are many foreign born residents who are not citizens who wish to send for relatives, and many citizens who wish to send for relatives not in the specific classes allowed on the government form. For these we continue to fill out the old type of affidavit of support. We keep in close touch with consular authorities and advise applicants when affidavits are useless.

We also have had a number of cases which have been taken up with the Department of State as the prospective immigrants are American citizens

although resident in a foreign land. These cases were mainly of wives of American citizens married prior to September, 1922, children born subsequent to their father's naturalization, and children born here but taken abroad. In all these cases documentary evidence of births, marriage certificates, etc., have been submitted to Washington. Cases of this sort often take months of correspondence. Several agents from the Department of State have visited our office in regard to these cases, and have assured us that our disinterested services are appreciated by them.

A description of this work sounds as though it were entirely clerical in character, but in actual process it has many human and appealing aspects. Those for whom we made out affidavits do not fail to keep in touch with us until the immigrants sent for are safely landed. If the newcomers land at Boston, our Field Secretary is on hand to help in making the connection; if, as is more usual, the arrival is at New York, we notify Ellis Island of our interest and give the relative identifying letters. Usually the newcomers are brought in to see us at the office, and even then our interest is not allowed to cease. We are asked to suggest schools for the children or for the non-English speaking members of the family, or to help adult members toward citizenship. The Field Secretary visits such newcomers and we try to have a complete record of the welfare of all we have definitely aided to enter.

#### *Emigration.*

The persons listed under this classification are not, in the main, persons who have decided to leave the country for good, but are rather those aliens who desire to return to this country after a visit to the homeland. The Federal Bureau of Immigration now issues a form (called form 631) by which such aliens may petition the government for a permit to re-enter after a specified period of absence. Since July, 1924, the majority of our emigrants have been assisted in filling these blanks. Canadians do not require the permit to re-enter. For many of these people we made an affidavit of identification which facilitated their re-entry.

#### *Citizenship.*

The presidential election stimulated the interest in naturalization. An increase of the number applying for first papers is apparent this year, particularly among those recent arrivals who came from Canada. Possibly the greater stringency in border inspection for Canadian visitors has been a factor here. We have a growing number of inquiries from women on naturalization matters. The passage of the Cable Act and the amendment allowing women to vote combine to awaken interest.

Numbers of aliens are at present disqualified for citizenship under a Federal Court ruling which debars from citizenship until July 1, 1926, those who claimed exemption during the draft because of alienage. Numbers of men do not know their draft status. We have obtained this information for them from the Adjutant General's office in Washington.

During the course of the year the Director endeavored to secure for the Federal Naturalization Service more adequate quarters in the Federal Post Office Building. Certain alterations had been made in the building and the time seemed opportune to push for better quarters. The Director joined with a Committee of the American Legion in a conference with a representative of the Federal Government sent from Washington. The interest of the Governor and of the two Senators from Massachusetts was obtained but, while the Washington authorities recognized the need of more suitable rooms, it was deemed impracticable at the moment to grant them as the specific alterations which had been made had been undertaken under an appropriation given for another department. It is hoped that in the near future some adequate change can be made in the naturalization offices which are manifestly unsuitable for their purposes. The Division has greatly appreciated the co-operation which we have enjoyed with the present Naturalization Director, Mr. Farrell, and with his staff and regrets that their excellent work is hampered by inadequate quarters.

As in previous years we have circularized all those eligible for second papers in the Boston district. We have supplied 2,332 names of those eligible for



citizenship to teachers or supervisors in eight different cities. We have continued to distribute the pamphlet "The Constitution with Suggestions for Citizenship." From the Boston office we have distributed 8,600 of these booklets as in the past year. Of this number 2,228 were given to teachers for adult immigrant classes, 801 were given to day schools with foreign pupils, 933 for club or racial classes and the remainder to individuals requesting the book.

#### *Interpretation and Translation.*

In so far as our staff includes linguists, we supply interpreters or translators to immigrants or organizations dealing with them. The growing number of requests from state departments and organizations shows an appreciation of disinterested interpretative service. Among the state offices using our services are Department of Public Welfare, Parole Board, Industrial Accident Board, Bank Commissioners' Office, and Civil Service Commission.

#### REPORT OF FIELD SECRETARY.

By December 1, 1924, the date upon which the year covered by this brief review begins, the major portion of immigration for the year 1923 was over. From the first of December, 1923, only 5% of the quota remained and was filled from Iceland, Fiume, and a few other countries, and finally the incoming liners brought almost entire passenger lists of American citizens returning from trips abroad, or aliens returning from visits to their home countries within the specified time allotted them for this purpose.

July 1, 1924, brought the welcome new order under which emigrating aliens are granted visas at the American Consulates abroad and are admissible here to the extent of but 10% of the annual quota of their country per month. This annual quota having been reduced, beginning from July 1, 1924, from 3% of the number of a given nationality resident in the United States in 1910, to 2% of the number of each nationality resident here in 1890, will accordingly be distributed more evenly throughout the entire year, and once an alien receives his visa at the Consulate, he may travel safely and pleasantly, secure in the confidence that quota troubles are a thing of the past, and that if he is otherwise admissible, America, the land of opportunity, will receive him.

From December 1, 1923, to November 30, 1924, the Field Secretary of the Division has been present at the arrival of thirty-two liners—six under the old order and the remainder under the new. This represents the arrival at the Port of Boston of approximately 7,750 immigrants, the great majority of whom have been subjects of Great Britain, and are, accordingly, English speaking. This item has, of course, simplified matters greatly at the piers, although there is still much to be done to help the newcomer once he has been formally admitted to the country by the Federal Immigration Inspectors. Complications are bound to arise involving baggage and customs, extension of railroad tickets, non-appearance of relatives who were to meet the alien upon arrival, and lack of knowledge on the part of those who do come as to how their particular newcomer will look. Detained aliens also come in for their share of attention, and their friends are located and told of the further processes at the Immigration Station, or brought in at once for the customary Board Hearing. These and other difficulties are all overcome in time, and in addition to the appreciation of those helped, the pleasant co-operation of all the organizations interested, and of their representatives at the piers, may well be noted here. The Travelers' Aid Society also sent to our office names of Massachusetts-destined aliens coming by way of New York, and we have gladly included these names among those to be visited, and have reported to the Travelers' Aid.

During the past year the Field Secretary has brought the facilities of the Division to the attention of about 1,800 newcomers. Among the women recently arrived, a very high percentage have entered domestic service, partly because of the high wages paid at this time, and partly because such service offers opportunity to begin at once to earn under safe conditions until the country and its ways are better known.

It is safe to say that the actual persons reached by the year's visits number more than the immigrants listed, for general interpreters, neighbors and friends

ask questions and decide to put into action the vague intention they had had for years—to take out their papers. In some cases more than one visit is desirable, and in these cases as well as in many of the first calls, appreciation is expressed for the interest of the Division in the newcomers.

#### FALL RIVER OFFICE.

This report marks the completion of the first entire year that this office has been conducted as a separate and distinct unit of the Division of Immigration and Americanization; it previously formed a branch of the New Bedford office.

Our office began work on a full time basis in charge of a permanent secretary during April, 1923. Our principal object during the year 1923 was to secure the best mediums of publicity and advertising in order that our location, aims, and purpose should be brought to the attention of those people whom our Division was designed to serve.

The fact that our report for the present year shows an increase of practically 80% in the number of applications for service indicates that the office is firmly established as a valuable addition to the welfare organizations of the city. Practically all the leaders of the foreign born have arrived at a full understanding of our service and are doing all in their power to further our work, thereby safeguarding their people from exploitation.

#### *Citizenship.*

This branch of our work received a great impetus during the present year. The factors contributing to the increasing interest in this matter are probably many and varied. Among them might be mentioned the present quota law giving special preference to those only who have acquired citizenship; also to the fact that practically the entire population of this city have been unemployed for almost one year, owing to the textile depression, and the only work to be had was that offered by the city in the street department, which of necessity must be given to its citizens. This brought the question of naturalization to the attention of hundreds of aliens in a forcible manner.

We have been invited to Taunton on several occasions by the school authorities and have been of material assistance to them both in citizenship and in immigration matters.

In those sections of the country coming within our province which would not warrant a personal call, we have circularized with a form of questionnaire which has proved very successful.

Since the forms now being employed by the Naturalization Bureau are being made more and more complicated and difficult to complete, our help is almost a necessity.

#### *Emigration and Immigration.*

During the mid-summer season we were of great assistance to large numbers who wished to tour Canada in automobiles. In previous years the immigration inspection for auto tourists had been very superficial but with the advent of the present regulations a rigorous inspection of each car was made and this fact becoming known throughout the city brought a heavy demand for advice and assistance.

Owing to the industrial depression in this city, large numbers of the Portuguese people took the opportunity of paying a visit to the Azores, which necessitated their application for return permits through our office.

Our actual immigration work was limited to a small number of applications on form 633, for persons with relatives falling within the preferred and non-quota classes. In all other cases all that remained to be done was to advise applicants of the consular regulations in the different countries and to endeavor to prevent a useless waste of money and effort in sending for their relatives.

We have co-operated to advantage with the Community Welfare and also the welfare organization connected with the local insurance companies, and extensively with the Supervisor of Americanization, to our mutual benefit.

Knowing the regard in which our office is held by the leaders of our foreign population, we have reason to believe that with a return of business conditions to the normal, the office should continue to reach and serve the people in constantly increasing numbers.



## LAWRENCE OFFICE.

In closing another year's work in the field of social service connected with the lives of immigrants, this kind of work appears more and more vital to the welfare of our communities, our state, and our nation.

The immigration and naturalization laws are becoming so involved now that they present a legal field by themselves, and our office is continually being called upon by lawyers for advice in regard to these phases of law.

The volume of work fluctuates during the year. During the past year our heaviest day, of thirty-five interviews, came in August, when we usually think that vacations are in order. In fact this rush of work was connected with vacations because it was that of furnishing information to aliens who were going to Canada for a short time. In volume the work of our office has increased 13% during the year.

The scope of our work is shown by the following specimens of actual problems submitted to us:

1. My boy is in the state hospital at Tewksbury. Will you please try to arrange for him to come home and be with me and his brothers and sisters for Christmas?

2. My husband went to Canada and cannot get back. He is held at the border. I have five children to take care of. Please get my husband back.

3. A former friend of mine in Syria owes me money and will not pay. Please help me get it.

4. My brother has not been heard from in several years. He last lived in the Caucasus, Russia, near the Black Sea. Please help me find him.

The results in the above cases were as follows:

1. Permission has been secured to have the boy visit home for Christmas.

2. The Secretary of Labor permitted the man to enter the United States.

3. Through an agency in Beirut, Syria, an investigation is being made.

4. An advertisement has been inserted in a newspaper in Russia in an attempt to help find this man.

These are only a few of the hundreds of problems that have come to us.

*Lowell and Haverhill.*

I have continued to hold office hours in Lowell on the first and third Sundays of each month, and in Haverhill on the second and fourth. There has been a somewhat greater response at Haverhill than at Lowell, although during the past few weeks more service has been asked for at Lowell by public school teachers, and several special trips have been made to evening classes there.

Having in mind our past year's experience in this field, together with the fact shown in official government reports, that Massachusetts is second only to New York in the number of immigrants received from July to September, 1924, the need of our work and of its extension seems very great.

## NEW BEDFORD OFFICE.

The change in the immigration policy of this country has given us a chance to demonstrate our service to a class of people who have not had occasion to use us before.

First there were the established group who were well assimilated and naturalized and who wanted to bring relatives here.

After the passage of the law, through co-operation with the Federal and City authorities, ticket agents, the press (both English and foreign), and the Board of Commerce, we saved many from trouble and embarrassment by explaining the requirements for visits in foreign territory especially with regard to Canadian travel.

This service brought our work still more to the attention of those who need us.

During the past year we have taken up a new activity. Feeling that the time had come when the community was ready to take a more informed viewpoint of its problems, this office co-operated with the Survey Committee of the Central Council of Social Agencies by gathering facts and statistics about the foreign born for the purpose of pointing out where effort should be placed to improve the conditions in New Bedford.

These figures show that progress has been made in the problem of infant mortality during the past ten years, but they also show where more work must be done if we are to lower our rate.

It is hoped that in the future a more complete survey may be made.

Our part will probably be arranging the statistics in form as they come in and in cases where information must be gone out for, the workers in this office will be able and are equipped to get it much better than any other available group.

#### SPRINGFIELD OFFICE.

This office has continued to serve this year as in the past a large number of cities and towns in the western part of the state. Out of a total of eighty-five cities and towns from which inquiries have been received, seventy-four are located in the western part of the State. During the year inquiries were received from five states,—Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, and from Montreal, Canada and New Brunswick. Thirty-nine nationalities are represented in the 4,236 applicants served, about 46% of the requests for service coming from Springfield.

The Branch Secretary has, during the year, conducted meetings and assisted in programs at the following places.

ADAMS	Polish Group Meeting, Berkshire Cotton Co. Student Group, Hooker School. Teachers' Group, High School.
CHICOPEE	Three meetings Polish Educational Club, St. Stanislaus Hall. Student Group, Valentine School.
EASTHAMPTON	Four meetings, Student Groups. Foremen's Meeting, West Boylston Co., at High School.
MILLERS FALLS	Polish Group.
NORTH ADAMS	Normal School, Teachers' Group.
NORTHFIELD	Polish Group.
PALMER	Thorndike, Student Group. Bondsville, Student Group.
RUSSELL	Program, School Department.
TURNERS FALLS	Polish Group.
WEST WARREN	Program, Community Building, Educational Week. Student Group, West Warren School.
WESTFIELD	Student Group.

The Service Station at Worcester was continued until June of this year but has not been reopened this fall because of a change in the plans of the School Department necessitating the locating of the Bureau in the Continuation School Building, a location which the secretary felt would not be satisfactory for the purpose of our work.

The Service Station at Holyoke has been continued this year with the co-operation of the Holyoke School Department and has shown a satisfactory growth. With the release of the Secretary from the Worcester office, he has planned to devote more time to the development of the work in the upper end of the Connecticut valley.

The office has continued to co-operate this year with the Service work of the supervisors at Adams, Chicopee, Easthampton, Pittsfield, and Westfield, with occasional inquiries from Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Palmer, and Southbridge.

Citizenship and Immigration inquiries continue to make up the bulk of the work. There has been a falling off in the number of citizenship inquiries from last year due in a large degree to the unemployment situation which made it impossible for many men to proceed with citizenship where there was expense connected with it in the matter of furnishing witnesses and because many who were eligible could not go forward because of their draft status. There has been a change in the nature of our immigration inquiries, a large number of



these inquiries involving explanation and advice because of changing conditions under the new Immigration Law.

### *Citizenship.*

There were handled this year over 2,000 problems relating to citizenship, application for second papers exceeding first paper application by about 200. We have continued to circularize Springfield, and the communities in Hampden County from the lists drawn from the records at the Superior Court.

In Worcester County no circularizing was done since the close of our office in June. We have continued, however, to furnish supervisors in this county with lists of declarants and the names of those filing petitions for final papers with the court upon request.

Our first paper applications have come in a large degree from newly arrived immigrants who had received the circular letter mailed to all those who gave as their destination addresses within the district served from this office.

A large part of the work represented in our citizenship figures, other than first and second paper applications, is made of inquiries coming from supervisors in this district who have special problems arise in their class-room work and avail themselves of our help in the adjustment of them.

The number of requests for help in citizenship problems from women continued to increase, being particularly noticeable in the English speaking and French Canadian groups.

Since July 1st, there have been many inquiries from Canadians desiring to proceed with citizenship who are unable to show a legal entry into the United States. This situation we feel will grow with us for the next few years and is one that will cause considerable trouble amongst those families who came in recent years, and who failed to properly declare themselves upon entry.

We have continued to distribute the pamphlet "The Constitution of the United States of America with suggestions for those preparing for citizenship" to the applicants for help in naturalization. We have mailed this year a copy of the reprint to all members of the General Court in our District, and have given to Supervisors and teachers of immigrants 849 copies and to individuals 109 copies.

### *Immigration.*

The early filling of quotas in 1923 and still further reductions of those quotas under our present law has resulted in a decreasing number of requests for affidavits of support to be sent abroad. We have explained the situation abroad to applicants whose relatives are not in the preferred classes and have discouraged the sending of affidavits in these cases, advising rather that the applicants advise their relatives abroad of the situation in so far as it applies to them. The preparation of form 633 has now taken the place of the preparation of affidavits in our immigration work. There has been some disappointment on the part of the applicants because of the long delay between the receipt of notice by them of favorable action by the Department of Labor upon their request and the receipt of notice from the Consul abroad by their relatives.

The opportunity to visit home and return safely through the use of "The Permit to Re-enter the United States," form 631, has been taken advantage of largely by Italians, Spaniards, Greeks, and Portuguese in the order named. In the filing of these applications, however, there has not been sufficient time allowed by the applicants between the date of filing and the date of sailing, this necessitating in a number of instances our forwarding the Permits to them at their foreign address.

The changing law has brought increasing requests in the nature of special problems. Many of these we have been able to help in the adjusting of, through correspondence with the departments at Washington, and in some instances with the Consuls abroad. A case illustrative of this type of service is as follows:

1. A Syrian family came to the United States in the fall of 1895 bringing one child which had been born abroad. They continued to live here until the Spring of 1904, four children having been born in the meantime. The father in this year took the family to Syria for a visit, returning himself within a few



months, later becoming a citizen of the United States at Springfield in February, 1909. Before the family had an opportunity to return the father was killed in an industrial accident. Two of the American born sons in the meantime returned to the United States and found employment. Later one of the sons requested the help of our office in the arranging for the return of his mother and sister. Because of their long absence from the United States and the death of the father, it required considerable correspondence before their citizenship status was established to the satisfaction of the Department of State. The family are at last reunited, the mother and sister having reached Springfield on November 3, 1924.

*Exploitation.*

We have but few cases involving a real attempt to exploit the foreign born the past year, most of the complaints received being ones involving a failure to understand the reason for necessary court delays or attempt to have our help in assisting applicant where he had made a bad bargain.

A few cases involved an attempt to secure a large fee for securing release on parole of prisoners; one case in particular involving an attempt to defraud a prisoner of money which he put up with the understanding he was to be released on bail. This case was reported to the District Attorney's office with good results.

The local Police Court has recently taken notice of this type of activity on the part of certain attorneys, and have issued instructions that hereafter applications for parole must be made direct to court by the prisoner and not made through the intercession of an attorney.

We have continued to circularize the names furnished us through Boston of newly arrived immigrants in this district and have had the help of local organizations in follow up work in special instances. The secretary has not found it possible to personally call upon any of the immigrants this year. Lists of the names and addresses of these immigrants have also been furnished to the superintendents of schools and supervisors of Adult Alien Education.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE FROM DECEMBER 1, 1923, TO  
DECEMBER 1, 1924.

	Boston	Fall River	Law- rence	New Bedford	Spring- field	Total
Bank .....	50	6	8	17	19	100
Citizenship .....	4,362	1,794	1,318	1,796	2,053	11,323
Compensation .....	40	20	2	42	58	162
Emigration .....	723	346	282	539	243	2,133
Employment .....	62	16	106	23	28	235
Financial aid .....	32	2	1	10	—	45
Immigration .....	3526	603	893	955	1,295	7,272
Interpretation .....	201	—	—	40	13	254
Miscellaneous Complaints .....	182	49	43	148	101	523
Miscellaneous Information .....	303	260	154	247	276	1,240
Notarial service .....	128	117	52	143	140	580
Search for lost persons .....	15	2	7	8	3	35
Translation .....	120	1	3	3	7	134
Totals .....	9,744	3,216	2,869	3,971	4,236	24,036

RACIAL CLASSIFICATIONS FROM DECEMBER 1, 1923, TO DECEMBER 1, 1924.

	Boston	Fall River	Law- rence	New Bedford	Spring- field	Total
Italian .....	2,090	190	668	122	968	4,038
Polish .....	1,440	360	180	474	877	3,331
Canadian .....	967	815	241	690	248	2,961
Portuguese .....	38	859	23	1,463	10	2,393
Armenian .....	1,020	—	386	2	280	1,688
Greek .....	614	71	256	139	378	1,458
English .....	326	245	226	526	119	1,442
Irish .....	979	62	78	64	184	1,367
Hebrew .....	650	129	25	66	221	1,091
American .....	282	174	126	81	252	915
Syrian .....	209	144	367	36	114	870
Scotch .....	235	29	83	21	106	474
German .....	94	14	35	36	132	311
Russian .....	39	42	96	21	38	236
Lithuanian .....	149	—	17	13	44	223
Swedish .....	109	11	8	18	76	222
West Indian .....	95	4	—	34	3	136
French .....	52	7	8	38	17	122
Albanian .....	70	1	—	23	12	106
Austrian .....	25	6	4	4	28	67
Norwegian .....	41	—	2	5	5	53
Negro .....	45	—	—	—	—	45
Czecho-Slovak .....	11	—	1	7	24	43
South American .....	11	7	2	22	—	42
Finnish .....	18	4	—	—	20	42
Spanish .....	16	1	—	1	23	41
Ukranian .....	2	28	—	3	1	34
Turkish .....	2	2	—	22	4	30
Belgian .....	4	2	10	13	1	30
Rumanian .....	17	1	6	1	3	28
Lettish .....	21	—	4	—	—	25
Swiss .....	15	1	—	3	4	23
Assyrian .....	5	—	—	—	17	22
Dutch .....	5	—	10	3	3	21
Hungarian .....	14	—	—	—	4	18
Bohemian .....	1	1	—	7	6	15
Danish .....	5	1	3	3	1	13
Chinese .....	1	—	—	2	6	9
Yugo Slav .....	5	—	—	1	2	8
African .....	6	—	1	—	—	7
Hindu .....	—	1	1	1	3	6
Bulgarian .....	4	—	—	—	—	4
Welsh .....	—	3	1	—	—	4
Cuban .....	1	—	—	3	—	4
Arabian .....	2	—	—	—	1	3
Esthonian .....	2	—	—	—	—	2
Jamaican .....	2	—	—	—	—	2
Egyptian .....	1	—	1	—	—	2
Serbian .....	1	—	—	—	1	2
Filipino .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Japanese .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Slovak .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Montenegren .....	—	1	—	—	—	1
Australian .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Korean .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lapp .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>9,744</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>4,236</b>	<b>24,036</b>





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND  
AMERICANIZATION

*Apr 14 1926*  
FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1925

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION.

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PAYSON SMITH, *Commissioner of Education.*

PAULINE R. THAYER, *Director, Division of Immigration and Americanization.*

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On November 30, 1925, the Division of Immigration and Americanization completed its sixth year as successor to the Massachusetts Bureau of Immigration. The duties of the Division are those imposed upon it by the original act, namely:

It shall be the duty of the Bureau to employ such methods, subject to existing laws, as in its judgment, will tend to bring into sympathetic relations the Commonwealth and its residents of foreign origin, to protect immigrants from exploitation or abuse, to stimulate their acquisition and mastery of the English language, to develop their understanding of American government, institutions and ideals, and generally to promote their assimilation and naturalization.

During the past year the Division has continued to maintain four branch offices in Fall River, Lawrence, New Bedford and Springfield in addition to the main office at the State House. Mr. Lewis Twitchell, who had been branch secretary at Springfield since 1918 left the Division to take up other work in July, 1925. His faithful and efficient services for seven years have been an important contribution to building up the work of the Division in the western part of the State. Mr. George P. Lovett began work as branch Secretary for the Springfield District on July 1, 1925.

### BOSTON OFFICE.

As in past years the largest number of applicants have sought our advice on questions relative to Citizenship, Immigration and Emigration.

### *Citizenship.*

Important modifications of the federal naturalization procedure have occurred in the past year. Prior to 1924 any alien with a residence in the United States might file a first paper — or declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States — at any time. Now only those aliens who arrived in the country before July 3, 1921 have the privilege of taking out a first paper without wait or formality. Those arriving in the country after June 3, 1921 must file the usual preliminary blank declaration of intention and then await notice from the naturalization authorities. A record of the legal admittance of each applicant must be verified at the port of entry before the alien can be sworn in on his declaration blank and receive the first paper. The ultimate advantages to the alien of a verification of his arrival prior to his taking out his first paper are fairly obvious since the law requires such verified record of arrival for all petitioners for citizenship who have come to the country since 1906. The obtaining of this certification at the beginning of the naturalization procedure should certainly prove an advantage when the time comes for the filing of the final papers. There are obvious ad-

antages for the government, also, in the new plan of the verification of legal entry into the country. If the alien has been in the country less than three years, and no record of his entry can be found he is on the deportation list. This verification serves, therefore, as a check list towards illegal entries. Many aliens entered the country ex-quota as visitors in the years of the 3% quota. These arrivals as visitors are not legal admissions to the United States, however, and such aliens will be invited to return whence they came should the verification of arrival reveal an illegal entry.

The new immigration law which grants a non-quota and preferential status has undoubtedly proved a stimulus toward citizenship. Many who long for citizenship and who need its practical advantages to re-unite their families are at present unable to complete their citizenship because of their inability to pass the educational tests in the examination at the Naturalization Court. In practically all of the communities in Massachusetts, the public school authorities have opened opportunities for study for prospective citizens. Not all communities however have made the foreign-born aware of these opportunities nor in all cases are the classes held at times or places convenient for those who might like to avail themselves of these privileges. Certain classes of labor — longshoremen, fishermen, pick and shovel workers, railroad men, and many other occupational groups find the evening schools an impossibility because of their working hours. Probably in no state are there so many and so varied opportunities open for civics instruction — both in day and night classes as well as in factory classes — but even with all the opportunities there will inevitably be some to whom night schools will be unavailable. Individual study solves the problem for some. To those competent to study for themselves, the booklet we issue "The Constitution of the United States with Suggestions for those Preparing for Citizenship" has proved most useful.

#### *Draft Status.*

Aside from the lack of the educational qualifications for citizenship many aliens are temporarily at least debarred from the completion of their citizenship by their draft status in the World War. Directly after the Armistice there was a variety of rulings in the different naturalization courts on the eligibility for citizenship of those who claimed exemption during the war. The present ruling in Massachusetts temporarily debars from citizenship any alien who during the World War claimed exemption from military service because of alienage. During the draft registrants were given a card showing their classification by the Local Board. The draft classification usually indicating an alien claim was Class 5-F.

Numbers of men were unaware of the ruling of the naturalization courts until they appeared to petition for citizenship and were then refused it. Others, hearing of the ruling and uncertain of their classification, hesitated to take the final steps toward citizenship for fear they too would be debarred. While many men kept their classification cards, others destroyed them at the close of the war, others lost the cards and on many cards no classification data appeared. All the draft records were sent to Washington at the close of the war and are in the custody of the War Department, Adjutant General's Office. Every prospective petitioner to citizenship is now required to furnish the Naturalization authorities with his order and serial number in the draft so that the official record may be viewed for the naturalization court. It is to the advantage of the petitioner to ascertain, for his own information, his status in the draft. If he is listed as having claimed alienage, he is at present ineligible to petition for citizenship. The Naturalization Court has ruled also that any first paper taken out before June 2, 1921, the official end of the war, is voided by the alienage claim, and a new declaration is necessary.

It has certainly been surprising to note the number of men who apparently had no idea of their true status in the draft classification. In many cases, men with families who were entitled to exemption on family reasons are classified as claiming exemption because of alienage. While in some cases, the misunderstanding may have been due to ignorance of the language, in others there seems to have been no such explanation.



It is true that in the majority of cases the questionnaires were not made out by the registrant but by a friend, or an official or unofficial assistant. The rush of the moment undoubtedly caused much misunderstanding and confusion.

In some cases men in actual service of our allies were classified as delinquent or as deserters because when called for the draft they were not present or accounted for. A typical case of this sort follows:

"S——k M——n, an Armenian resident of Massachusetts, asked us to secure his classification in the draft as a preliminary to petition for citizenship. The official records at Washington showed that he had been listed as a deserter. The record read that he had registered at Worcester on June 5, 1917. A questionnaire was mailed him on December 24, 1917. For failure to return it he was certified as a delinquent. He was inducted into the military service from a status of delinquency on July 22, 1918 and failing to report, he became a deserter.

"When he was notified of his draft classification he presented his side of the story, stating that he registered in the draft as recorded in June 1917 but fearing that he would not be immediately reached and desiring to get into active service he sailed for France on the 25th of June and enlisted in July in the French Foreign Legion "Legion Dorion" at Bordeaux, France. He fought with the Legion in Cyprus, in Palestine, in Beirut and in Turkey, and after nearly three years in the field was given an honorable discharge in 1920. He had felt that service with the allies was equivalent to service for the United States and had had no desire to evade military duties.

"We presented this evidence for him to the Army authorities over his own sworn statement together with his honorable discharge from foreign service. The desertion charge was removed from his name and his name cleared for citizenship."

This work in ascertaining for applicants their status in the draft has necessitated much correspondence with Washington. We have been happy to receive prompt and efficient service from the office of the Adjutant General in securing answers to the numbers of letters on this point we have sent for applicants.

#### *Citizenship for Women.*

The *Cable Act* allowing independent citizenship for married women and the 19th amendment allowing women to vote have greatly stimulated the interest in citizenship by women. Both in the first and second paper applications the women are almost equal numerically to the men. The preponderance of women seeking citizenship, however, are of English speaking stock. The occupations of the women seeking citizenship are mainly housewives, domestic servants, and nurses. Many of these women have resided in the United States for years but had taken no steps toward citizenship until the passage of the 19th amendment.

#### *Emigration.*

The immigration law of July 1, 1924, allows alien residents of the United States to visit their native countries for a year or six months and guarantees re-admission, insofar as quota restrictions go, provided the prospective traveler secures the government permit to re-enter.

Issuance of such permit is granted upon written application by the alien on a special blank — form 631. If the alien's legal arrival in the country can be verified the permit is granted.

This requirement of the law went into effect July 1, 1924 but the blanks for the permits were not available, nor did the machinery for their issuance get into action immediately. Many aliens desiring to visit their native lands took the chance of returning without the permits as the holding of them is not mandatory. The majority were successful in proving their status as returning non-resident aliens. An occasional one found himself in serious difficulties.

Sometimes it is the homeland that causes the complication for the visiting alien. Such was the following case:

"S—— X—— took a trip to Italy in July 1924 for the purpose of settling a little estate to which he had fallen heir — the property being a tiny farm in his native district. Before leaving the United States he made application for a permit to re-enter and this permit was granted him. He left behind him in America his wife and his five children. The children are all American-born; the oldest child is six years of age and the youngest is less than a year.

"Within five weeks of his arrival in Italy he was inducted into the Italian military service for a term of eighteen months. He had come to America originally when he was sixteen years of age and felt perfectly secure from military service. In the meantime the family he had left behind in America were in serious difficulties. They had gone temporarily to live with a brother-in-law. This man was the father of seven children but had agreed to help out in the absence of the father. The head of this family, however, died suddenly from appendicitis in December 1924 and his widow left with seven children to support could no longer give any aid. All efforts through the Italian Consulate to shorten the Italian military service proved unavailing and soon the little family became dependent upon public funds for aid. The father who would be able to support them is prevented from returning until his military term is over. When his term is finished the permit to re-enter, granted in July 1924, will be out-dated and useless. We have arranged for an extension of this permit.

"At the present time there is apparently some hope of a shortening of the military term. It is, however, regrettable that a family should be really placed upon the mercy of American charity because of the action of a foreign government in seizing the breadwinner for military service."

During the past year, excursions to Canada have been exceedingly popular and several railways have offered excellent rates for these trips. Such excursionists must present proof to the immigration authorities of their citizenship, or if aliens of their legal admittance to the United States. The bulk of those who make these trips are Canadians and, under ordinary circumstances, a simple affidavit giving the facts of entry, proves sufficient. For those who entered without the formality of passing the immigration authorities, matters are not so simple, altho for the Canadian born the ultimate admission usually results upon payment of the necessary head-tax and consular fees. For the European born, however, it is a much more serious matter, for if no proof of legal entry is available, the returning resident may be debarred from admission.

### *Immigration.*

The immigration law of July 1, 1924 in operation now about a year and one half has had a notable effect on immigration. The number of immigrants coming to the United States in the federal fiscal year ending June 30, 1925 is 294,314 — a contrast to the preceding year's figure of 706,896. The figures for Massachusetts are equally significant, the number for 1925 being 29,636 in contrast to 51,938 for 1924.

The racial make-up of those coming within the past year has been greatly changed also.

The larger quotas from northern Europe have of course brought an immigration which is less closely related to immigrants resident here than the southern European groups. To Massachusetts through the port of Boston have come numbers of young men and young women from the British Isles. The young women have gone quite generally into domestic work securing their employment through aunts, cousins, sisters already in domestic service. There is, as yet, no oversupply of girls seeking domestic employment.

While the national groups with small quotas furnish the most striking examples of the pathos of family separations, still the separations exist in all the national



groups for practically all the quotas were oversubscribed for the past fiscal year and long waiting lists await the visas for every racial group. At the same time our work brings us into contact constantly with families who have been re-united and whose reunion has been a source of disappointment. The reasons vary of course for the individual families — change in customs, the congestion of city life, the too rapid modernism of the younger members of the family and the too sluggish conservatism of the older members are all factors but the great factor of human selfishness — common to all national groups — determines the issue.

The bulk of the immigrants succeed but the failures as well as the successes indicate that the solution of the immigration problem is not by any means the opening again of the unrestricted flow. There are tragedies of separations because of the stringency of the law but there are also tragedies of human selfishness when dependents or misfits are deserted by the ones who are responsible for their presence here. The solution of the question cannot be worked out by a formula of Americanization but it may be studied best when the numbers arriving are small enough to make the problem an approachable one.

The work in assisting immigrants resident here to bring their relatives to this country has become much more technical since the passage of the new law. For certain relatives of American citizens the government allows the citizens to petition for the issuance of an immigration visa. These petition forms — commonly called form 633 — are quite lengthy, they must be made in duplicate, they must be attested by two witnesses and they must be typewritten. The Federal Government has no agency to assist the relatives here to make out the forms. The average person desiring to make them out is unable to do so and they must be sworn to before a notary public at any event. After these forms are completed there is frequently need of recurrent correspondence. For certain classes of prospective immigrants the cases must be taken up individually with the Department of State or the Consular agencies abroad. It is evident that an increasing amount of technical knowledge of the immigration laws and rulings, and an ability to correspond and co-operate with Federal agencies is a coming requirement for work with the foreign-born. The Division of Immigration and Americanization — since it is a state created agency — operating without financial profit — and with the disinterested purpose of mutual help to state and immigrant is granted the heartiest co-operation by the Department of Labor and the Department of State. We are in constant correspondence with these offices and cannot but appreciate the thoroughness of the investigation and the exactness of the decision in each individual case. In many cases, the Department of State sends a special investigator who personally interrogates the persons in question. Our office has been used for these interviews for the Boston District.

The Director has been in direct contact with the Federal Bureau of Immigration and this summer a special agent of that office made investigations in Europe concerning the possibility of the immigration of agriculturists. Her contacts with the different consulates abroad have proved most valuable in securing the advancement of the spirit of the co-operation with the state work.

The experience of the past year has emphasized the growing technicality in the character of the work. In our major contacts with the immigrant in his problems of immigration, emigration and citizenship, we serve him best the more we can tell him about the exact ruling of the law particularly applicable to his case. The law is highly technical and the rulings are constantly changing. To be of service we must keep closely in touch with current legislation and with judicial decisions. The day is past when the one qualification in dealing with the immigrant was a good intent toward him, and an approach through a medium of a foreign speaking interpreter. We need more than ever perhaps, competent interpretation but we need also a more technical knowledge than was needed in the days before the highly restrictive law. The amount of work required in correspondence, filing of affidavits, interviews, etc. on any one case greatly exceeds the work necessary for five cases under the old law. While fewer are coming in, more detailed work is necessary to comply with the technicalities.

It seems to us that the new law greatly deepened the need for offices of our type.



The technicalities are now so bewildering to the average immigrant that unaided he could not work out his problems in regard to his governmental relations. If he seeks advice from his countrymen, he is often misadvised, frequently cheated, and practically always overcharged. The maintenance by the state of an official bureau for the dissemination of authentic information on these problems that vex the immigrant is the best means to prevent his exploitation. He wants help and advice. Our office aims, in conformity to the act creating it, "to bring into sympathetic relation the Commonwealth and its citizens of foreign origin" and in no way can it do this better than by maintaining a service bureau to assist him in his relation to the country in which he has made his new home.

#### REPORT OF THE FIELD SECRETARY.

July 1, 1925 completed the first year of the new quota law — 2% of the number of each country's nationals present in our country in 1890 — and on that date was taken another step toward lessening the hardships and raising the standards of our newcomers, — examination abroad by the American Consuls for any physical or non-physical bars to their admission here. Upon requesting visa, intending emigrants present to our Consuls abroad a number of documents which give proof of their good character and fitness for entry; these, and all other matters meeting with satisfaction, the Consul gives one of his carefully numbered visas. These visas, which are good for four months, are not, of course, tickets of admission to the United States, nor do they obviate the necessity of examination of the immigrants upon arrival at our ports, since checking is desirable to identify the holders of the visas, thereby guarding against fraud, and to detect any reasons for inadmissibility which may have developed since the visa was issued.

Boston has received sixty-four immigrant-bringing liners during the twelve months covered by this report, and the State Division of Immigration has been represented at each arrival. There have been sixty-two boats from British ports and two from Italian ports.

The newcomers have been splendid types of men and women, generally young, strong, intelligent and ambitious. There have been detentions, of course, but they are notably fewer and generally such that a further examination by the Federal physician or by a Board of Inquiry clears the situation in short order and the newcomer is discharged to his waiting friends. Deportations have been few — approximately 130 during the year, and these have been generally for visa difficulties in the case of those who have attempted to enter the country irregularly — stowaways, for instance. Only seven of these were regular arrivals deported for medical reasons or incorrect visas.

There is very little less work at the piers, however, as far as the organizations represented are concerned. There are still hordes of eager relatives waiting, many fearful lest a newcomer whom they have not seen since babyhood pass them unknown; there are still nervous grooms to locate for newly arrived intended brides who, of course, are detained until it is seen that matters are conventionally adjusted; there are still the usual number with doubtful or impossible addresses, dilatory relatives to be sent for to come and claim their newcomers, and many other calls for immediate assistance — matters relating to baggage, money exchange, extension of tickets, or directions as to the next step of the journey when the immigrants have not been met at the pier by relatives resident in surrounding towns.

Detentions are still made, and probably always will be made, for doubtful medical cases, for proof that those suffering from physical defects will not be handicapped in earning a living here, for question into possible contract labor cases, for the location of very necessary mislaid papers, and not infrequently the ambulance is requisitioned to remove to the hospital cases of accident or recently acquired illness. Sometimes the status of a newcomer who comes as a non-quota student must be verified, or young people under sixteen years of age must be held with those who accompanied them across the ocean until discharged to those to whom they are formally destined.

During these busy days, friendly co-operation among the representatives of the various public and private organizations interested in the immigrants had made for greater efficiency among the workers and greater service to those arriving. This same co-operation has extended to the small celebrations held on our principal holidays for those waiting at the United States Immigration Station at East Boston. Monthly meetings of the pier workers arrange for these festivities and discuss various phases of the pier work and its further possibilities.

The Field Secretary has continued her visiting among the newcomers and has been received invariably with courtesy and appreciation of the State's interest and help. Over and over again she hears the older members of the family, here for years, recall their difficult first months, helpless and perhaps imposed upon here in a new land among strangers, and congratulate the younger generation upon the ready help which surrounds them today. Practically without exception the newcomers intend to become American citizens and many have already applied for their Declaration of Intention within a few days or weeks of their arrival. As in the past, there seems to be little or no unemployment problem among the newly arrived men or women; they are not always enthusiastic about their first employment but accept the situation philosophically and the job as a stepping stone to something better. In this connection evening school appeals to nearly all, and many enroll very shortly after their entrance to the country — for besides the grammar and high school grades, many women enjoy the dressmaking and millinery classes, and many men plan on trade training at night. Many who hope for a different line of employment later are stimulated to make use of their nearest library and become acquainted with its helpful assistants as a beginning toward the new field.

Of course a number giving our State as their destination have gone beyond its borders by the time the Field Secretary reaches the address of the relatives with whom they made only a short visit en route to their permanent home. A few, homesick or recalled, have crossed the ocean again back to the land of their birth, some have moved and left no word as to their next residence, but to make up for those we are unable to reach are those encountered in the search and these latter are often as much interested as the later comers would be in the visit of the State's representative. Relatives and friends, too, of the more recent immigrants listen, question, and resolve on action on the matters discussed and the work is indeed worth while, even for those not originally intended in the visits. Knowledge of our best known and most taken-for-granted facilities is often lacking to those who have been here for some time — a suggestion regarding the local visiting nurse association, for instance, being a genuine godsend to a patient sufferer who had not time nor money to visit doctors.

Investigations into and reports upon office cases referred to her have also been covered by the Field Secretary.

#### REPORT OF FALL RIVER OFFICE.

The report for the year 1925 is a very satisfactory one and the total of 3,528, showing a gain of more than three hundred additional applications for service, is evidence of a conservative and gratifying growth of the work in this city.

It would seem reasonable to expect that the general industrial depression, which has continued for the past two years, would tend to affect the work adversely and the fact that it has failed to do so is a fair indication of its value and the status which it holds among the welfare activities of the city.

Naturally the report for the year just passed will show many changes in the character of the service demanded and the racial grouping will differ somewhat from that of previous years, natural differences brought about by changing local conditions.

#### *Citizenship.*

The work coming under this head progresses steadily among all the races in the city, but more especially with the Portuguese people.

It is safe to state, that under normal business conditions, large numbers of aliens



would proceed with naturalization, who, at the present time are prevented from doing so, because of the cost of naturalization, which they are unable to defray.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the cities and towns included in our district and our visits to Taunton and Attleboro are invariably productive of satisfactory results.

### *Immigration and Emigration.*

This branch of the work has been stimulated to a great extent by the existing immigration laws, relating to the Return Permits required of alien residents when returning from visits abroad. It is characteristic of the Portuguese people to visit their former home in the Azores at very frequent intervals and our services are in constant demand in aiding them with the necessary applications.

During the past summer, hundreds of French residents here visited Canada and in practically every case a call was made upon our office for necessary documents or pertinent advice, which enabled them to make their visit without fear of the trying ordeal to be encountered at the border line. The French clergy of all the churches in the city, made at our request, appropriate announcements, which accounts for our inability to serve such large numbers of their people.

### *Compensation.*

Several important cases under the Compensation Law were brought to our attention during the past year and were invariably settled satisfactorily.

### REPORT OF LAWRENCE OFFICE.

During the fiscal year ending November 30, 1925 the Lawrence branch has been open each week day and the Branch Secretary has continued to hold office hours two Sundays a month at Haverhill and two Sundays a month at Lowell, taking Wednesdays off instead of Sundays.

It has been a year of extreme business depression in Lawrence and the other industrial communities of the Merrimack Valley.

This business depression is one cause of a reduction in the number of cases handled by this Branch during the year. While the Immigration Act of 1924 has perhaps also operated to reduce the number of cases it may at the same time have increased the length and difficulty of the average case. Throughout the year applicants have come to our office with many queries regarding the quotas and the possibility of getting their husbands, wives, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, etc. from abroad. Therefore altho we could not assist many of them in getting their relatives here we had a great deal of work to do in explaining why we could not. The procedure for citizens who are sending for husbands, wives, parents, children or fiancées, is also more lengthy under the new law as a four page petition in duplicate is to be filled out in each instance. The new law has also added the work of filling out permits to re-enter the country and the work of sending certain applications for first papers to officials for securing certificates of arrival.

During the year this office has written directly to 316 newly arrived immigrants throughout the Merrimack Valley, their names having been forwarded to us from the Director's office. In addition to writing to the immigrants explaining what we are prepared to do for them we have sent these names to the various superintendents of schools so that they might endeavor to get them into Americanization classes. We have had some assistance from private agencies in calling upon some of these new arrivals but the recent immigrants are mostly English speaking persons, and as our chief assistance came from the International Institute and their work is among foreign language speaking persons, there was not so much scope for the Institute's assistance as in previous years. Our letters to the new arrivals have brought a considerable number of them to our office seeking assistance.

The new law has increased the fears of Canadian residents of the United States in regard to crossing the border between the United States and Canada so that we had at least the usual rush of that kind of work during the summer months. A few applicants who in their haste did not proceed according to our instructions



had considerable difficulty and were subject to delays of various length but nearly all of those whom we served avoided difficulty. It is to be regretted that a number of Canadians who have lived in this country most of their lives and who have crossed the border many times without being challenged are now told that they are not legally resident in the United States because they have not been recorded.

We have sent notices to 412 persons whose Declarations of Intention had matured so that these persons were eligible to apply for second papers. This work supplies a real need. We have found from experience that hundreds of applicants assume that they will be automatically notified by the court when it is time for them to apply for their second papers. The courts are under no obligation to notify them.

In connection with many complaints and industrial accident cases we have quite frequently needed to seek legal advice in order to know just what was possible for us to do for the applicants. As in previous years we have received this legal advice free from a public spirited lawyer in Lawrence.

The Interpreter Releases, which have been sent directly to us from New York during the past year, have been of inestimable value and we hope that we can continue to have them sent to us.

During the year the Branch Secretary has visited evening classes in the following places:

Green School, Lowell.  
 Lincoln School, Lowell.  
 Varnum School, Lowell.  
 Colburn School, Lowell.  
 Polish Church, Lowell.  
 Y. M. C. A., Lowell.  
 Oliver School, Lawrence.  
 Greek Church, Lawrence.  
 Russian Church, Lawrence.  
 High School, Haverhill.  
 Washington Square School, Salem.

He has also given talks bearing upon our work as follows:

Conference of Americanization teachers, Haverhill.  
 Victor Emanuel Club, Haverhill.  
 Daughters of American Revolution, Lawrence.  
 South Congregational Church, Lawrence.

The Branch Secretary also took part in the conferences at Lawrence that resulted in the initiation of an educational program in the Russian community at Lawrence.

#### REPORT OF NEW BEDFORD OFFICE.

During the past year there has been no new type of work taken up by this office. There has been no radical change in the administration of the laws affecting the foreign-born. These two facts have made it possible to put our attention towards making the work we do of greater value. Under the law, our goal is to promote assimilation. Every interview may be an important influence towards assimilation of the person who comes to us. The workers have devoted more time to each contact during the past year than has been possible before. They know better than ever before what promotes assimilation and what hinders it.

The master file which has been in operation in this office for five years has enabled us to work out a system of case work in connection with assimilation. In family case work the history is obtained by interview and investigation, our history of the assimilation experiences of the alien is contained in the records referred to by the master file index card. Analysis of the past experiences of those who come to us gives us a clearer conception of the different factors for and against assimilation. Instead of having theories as to what is going to have a good effect on the foreign-born population we have facts to go by. We have cases in our records where at the first visit there was apparently no interest on the part of the applicant

to take an interest in American ideals. Later records show where the frame of mind has changed and eventually the man has become a citizen.

Where a man does something which gets him into trouble and the newspapers, we check up through the master file and analyze our contacts with him and in this way learn what is harmful. Five years give us valuable information but as the workers grasp the significance of minor details our records will become more valuable and our method of handling the problems and guiding the actions of the foreign-born will improve.

#### REPORT OF SPRINGFIELD OFFICE.

The Springfield office rendered service to 3,750 applicants during the year. Inquiries were received from seventy-four cities and towns in the Springfield district and from five states other than Massachusetts including Indiana, New York, Connecticut, Michigan, and California. Thirty-eight nationalities were represented among the applicants.

The Branch Secretary participated in meetings as follows:

HOLYOKE . . . . .	Whiting School, Student Group.
	St. Jerome's School, Student Group.
CHICOPEE . . . . .	Valentine School, Student Group.
CHICOPEE FALLS . . . . .	Taylor School, Student Group.
WILLIMANSETT . . . . .	Chapin School, Student Group.
ADAMS . . . . .	High School, Teacher Group.
	Hoosick School, Student Group.
WESTFIELD . . . . .	Citizenship meeting.
WEST WARREN . . . . .	Citizenship meeting.
WORCESTER . . . . .	Classical High School, Student Group.
LUDLOW . . . . .	High School, Student Group.
	East Street School, Student Group.
SPRINGFIELD . . . . .	Junior High School, Student Group.
	Hooker School, Student Group.

The Service Station at Holyoke, which is conducted in co-operation with the Holyoke School Department, fills a definite need for Holyoke, and its maintenance is amply justified by the number of cases handled at this office.

At the request of the Worcester School Department, the Service Station there, which was discontinued in June, 1924, was reopened in October this year. The Worcester office is located in the Classical High School, the location of which is familiar to most of the people who desire to avail themselves of our services.

The office has co-operated with the School Departments in their Americanization and Citizenship work at Adams, Chicopee, Easthampton, Westfield and Springfield, and has answered inquiries from Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Palmer, Southbridge, Pittsfield, Hadley and Hatfield.

#### *Citizenship.*

1894 problems relating to citizenship were referred to us during the year. 501 applications for 1st papers, and 423 applications for 2nd papers were completed for persons requesting this service.

We have continued to circularize Springfield, and the towns in Hampden County from lists secured from the records at the Superior Court, and have also furnished to Supervisors in the County the lists of Declarants and those filing petitions for final papers in their towns, when they have requested them.

A great many 1st paper applications have been completed for newly arrived immigrants who have received our letter, which is mailed to those immigrants who give as their destination, addresses within our district. Aside from 1st and 2nd paper applications a large part of our citizenship work includes inquiries from supervisors in regard to problems that are presented to them in their school work.

We have continued to distribute the pamphlet "The Constitution of the United



States of America with suggestions for those preparing for Citizenship'' to applicants for 2nd papers, and have also furnished the supervisors and teachers with copies on request. A very noticeable feature in connection with citizenship work is the large number of Canadians who are without a legal status in the United States. This is something which has created a considerable problem for the future.

### *Immigration.*

The application for a permit to re-enter the United States, form No. 631, was completed for 188 persons, and form 633, the application for the issuance of an immigration visa, was prepared for 54 persons.

We receive a constant number of inquiries in regard to immigration laws, and have been able to adjust many unfortunate situations. An example of this is the case of a young Italian who came to the United States for the first time in 1920. After three years' residence here, he returned to Italy for a visit, having first secured a permit to re-enter. An extension was granted on the permit for a further six months, and he sailed for the United States and arrived at Ellis Island before the permit expired. Because he could not pass the literacy test which was given him, he was not permitted to land and was ordered deported. His case was reported to us and an appeal was taken from the decision to the Board of Special Inquiry at Washington. The young man's case was presented by our office to the Board, with the result that the deportation order was rescinded and he was permitted to rejoin his people in Springfield.

In addition to the regular hours at the Springfield office an office is maintained in Holyoke at the Chamber of Commerce every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 9:00 and at Worcester every Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:30. For the convenience of those who find it impossible to call at our office during the day the Springfield office is also open every Wednesday evening until 8:30.

### SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE FROM DECEMBER 1, 1924, TO DECEMBER 1, 1925.

	Boston.	Fall River.	Law- rence.	New Bedford.	Spring- field.	Total.
Bank . . . . .	45	8	14	27	25	119
Citizenship . . . . .	5,085	2,096	1,013	1,651	1,894	11,739
Compensation for injury . . . . .	65	20	6	35	48	174
Emigration . . . . .	942	525	418	490	508	2,883
Employment . . . . .	82	13	74	9	23	201
Financial aid . . . . .	35	-	8	4	3	50
Immigration . . . . .	1,496	471	372	539	868	3,746
Interpretation . . . . .	82	1	1	32	15	131
Miscellaneous complaint . . . . .	190	40	37	98	52	417
Miscellaneous information . . . . .	282	240	185	190	211	1,108
Notarial service . . . . .	125	109	51	118	87	490
Search for lost persons . . . . .	10	4	8	9	6	37
Translation . . . . .	193	1	3	-	10	207
Total . . . . .	8,632	3,528	2,190	3,202	3,750	21,302



RACIAL CLASSIFICATIONS FROM DECEMBER 1, 1924, TO DECEMBER 1, 1925.

	Boston.	Fall River.	Law- rence.	New Bedford.	Spring- field.	Total.
Canadian . . . . .	1,374	1,011	374	809	418	3,986
Italian . . . . .	1,922	198	367	81	806	3,374
Polish . . . . .	1,099	347	169	435	850	2,900
Portuguese . . . . .	71	930	28	849	41	1,919
Irish . . . . .	1,199	94	87	66	251	1,697
English . . . . .	323	276	182	520	146	1,447
American . . . . .	245	214	129	55	256	899
Hebrew . . . . .	531	138	4	44	142	859
Greek . . . . .	287	69	137	82	213	788
Armenian . . . . .	368	3	173	-	77	621
Syrian . . . . .	132	132	249	23	73	609
Scotch . . . . .	193	29	74	24	122	442
Russian . . . . .	83	41	91	22	26	263
Lithuanian . . . . .	164	-	32	15	27	238
German . . . . .	80	3	28	10	95	216
Swedish . . . . .	128	1	1	13	50	193
French . . . . .	59	4	15	31	13	122
West Indian . . . . .	78	1	1	29	-	109
Albanian . . . . .	53	-	-	22	4	79
Norwegian . . . . .	49	-	1	7	3	60
Austrian . . . . .	19	7	6	8	10	50
Czecho-Slovak . . . . .	7	2	-	5	35	49
Turkish . . . . .	14	1	1	14	10	40
Finnish . . . . .	10	11	1	2	13	37
Swiss . . . . .	9	2	-	8	16	35
Belgian . . . . .	6	1	21	2	4	34
South American . . . . .	2	3	2	11	8	26
Dutch . . . . .	11	-	9	-	6	26
Rumanian . . . . .	12	-	2	4	7	25
Jamaican . . . . .	23	-	-	-	-	23
Lettish . . . . .	17	-	4	-	-	21
Spanish . . . . .	4	-	1	3	8	16
Danish . . . . .	11	2	-	-	1	14
Negro . . . . .	14	-	-	-	-	14
Chinese . . . . .	3	-	-	-	8	11
Hungarian . . . . .	6	-	-	-	-	6
Palestinian . . . . .	6	-	-	-	-	6
Ukranian . . . . .	-	5	-	1	-	6
Yugo Slav . . . . .	2	-	-	3	-	5
Bohemian . . . . .	-	-	-	2	2	4
Bulgarian . . . . .	1	-	1	1	1	4
Japanese . . . . .	4	-	-	-	-	4
Welsh . . . . .	1	2	-	-	1	4
Arabian . . . . .	-	-	-	-	3	3
Cuban . . . . .	1	-	-	1	1	3
Assyrian . . . . .	1	-	-	-	1	2
Australian . . . . .	1	-	-	-	1	2
Esthonian . . . . .	2	-	-	-	2	2
Filipino . . . . .	2	-	-	-	-	2
Persian . . . . .	2	-	-	-	-	2
Abyssinian . . . . .	-	1	-	-	-	1
East Indian . . . . .	1	-	-	-	-	1
Mexican . . . . .	1	-	-	-	-	1
Serbian . . . . .	1	-	-	-	-	1
Slav . . . . .	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total . . . . .	8,632	3,528	2,190	3,202	3,750	21,302

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